

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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R 312250Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
NAVOCEANO BAY ST LOUIS
NAVOCEANO SUITLAND MD
OCNAV ALEX VA
OCEANOUNIT FIVE
USNS HARKNESS

UNCLAS STATE 138211

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, EAID, EG, US

SUBJECT:USNS HARKNESS OPERATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ: NOTIFY-
ING GOI

REF:A)CAIRO 13108, B) TEL AVIV 6725

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN
REFTEL.

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2. EMBASSY TEL AVIV SHOULD SEND FOLLOWING NOTE TO ISRAELI
MFA NOTIFYING GOI OF PROSPECTIVE HARKNESS ACTIVITIES IN
GULF OF SUEZ.

3. "THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS

THE HONOR TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT A UNITED STATES NAVAL SHIP, THE USNS HARKNESS, WILL BE OPERATING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS.

--THE USNS HARKNESS IS A COASTAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP OPERATED BY THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND. FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE VESSEL HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN APPROACHES TO THE SUEZ CANAL. THIS PROJECT IS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE

HARKNESS PRESENTLY IS SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT THE SUEZ CANAL FROM PORT SAID TO SUEZ ON OR ABOUT JUNE 15. THE SURVEY IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL MARITIME NATIONS AND THE RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS UPDATED NAUTICAL CHARTS OF THE AREAS CONCERNED.

--AFTER TRANSITING THE SUEZ CANAL, THE USNS HARKNESS WILL CONDUCT A SIX MONTH HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF THE MARITIME TRAFFIC SEPARATION ZONE ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE GULF OF SUEZ AND WILL ALSO SURVEY THE APPROACH TO THE SUEZ-MEDITERRANEAN (SUMED) PIPELINE TERMINAL AT EIN SOKHNA. THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM THE SHIP AND ITS FOUR LAUNCHES; A WHITE HELICOPTER WILL BE USED FOR PROVISIONING AND IS EXPECTED TO MAKE FREQUENT FLIGHTS BOTH TO THE WESTERN SHORE AND TO THE PORT OF SUEZ. THE SURVEY TEAM WILL INSTALL APPROXIMATELY A DOZEN NAVIGATIONAL AID SITES

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ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE GULF TO MEASURE THE SHIP'S POSITION DURING THE SURVEY.

--(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) VANCE

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